Kathleen P.

Writing Narrative

Progress Log

Thu., 8/26: ((20 min.) Sat down and wrote out a list of possible ideas for writing narrative. I broke down focus by early, middle and late writing experiences.

Fri., 8/27: (10 min.) Wrote freely about letters I wrote as a child and how those first experiences grew into a means of future communication with friends scattered across the U.S.

Sun., 8/29: (15 min.) I compiled my ideas about letter writing to share in class. I included the trouble I was having trying to focus on 1 individual event.

Mon., 8/30: (10 min.) In class I shared my narrative ideas with small group. The group shared feedback on how I might try to narrow my focus down to 1 event.

Mon., 8/30: (30 min.) Wrote a quick draft of my first letter to my father while her was overseas in Turkey. Reread the draft. Wasn’t sure if that was the direction I wanted to take, so I sat down and listed my major writing experiences from kindergarten to the present.

Tue., 8/31: (15 min.) Still struggling with 1 crucial event, I made 2 lists. The first list I put down all my writing experiences that were positive and fun. The second list I put down all my writing experiences that were negative or difficult. I then chose the most significant event from each list. Positive=Mr. Ingalls’ class. Negative=Lisa’s death.

Tue., 8/31: (20 min.) Sat down and mapped out the best things about Mr. Ingalls’ class. Then I typed a quick draft about my first day in freshmen English. Reread the draft and was concerned the focus was too broad.

Wed., 9/1: (10 min.) I had my husband look over my draft and read the narrative description page. He gave me helpful comments that while funny, my drat seemed to vague.

Thu., 9/2: (15 min.) I reworked my draft. I still wasn’t happy with my narrative after these new changes. My narrative seemed to ramble on at places.

Fri., 9/3: (10 min.) Requested peer reviews from other classmates. The responses were generally positive but there were still questions about my focus.

Tue., 9/7: (15 min.) Sat my original draft of Mr. Ingalls aside and wrote a new draft that focused on 1 particular writing event in his class.

Wed., 9/8: (10 min.) I talked to Professor Fox after class about the problems I was having narrowing my focus down to 1 event. He helped me see that writing about Mr. Ingalls’ class was maybe too broad a topic. The focus had to be on 1 event.

Thu., 9/9: (20 min.) Sat down and mapped out ideas about writing the eulogy for Lisa’s memorial service. I thought it would be easier to write about a happy memory, but realized that my memories of writing that eulogy were still crystal clear in my mind. I spent a few minutes trying to sketch out my writer’s statement.

Fri., 9/10: (30 min.) I typed out a draft of my narrative with this new topic. The words just seemed to flow out randomly as I thought about that event. I reread my draft and reorganized it so it made more sense. My husband read through this draft. He said this version seemed more focused and the details were clear. One comment he made was about my dialogue, he said I needed to look at my word choices and make it more believable. I also spent time working on my writer’s statement.

Sat., 9/11: (20 min.) I made my final revisions to my narrative, added my last comments to my log, chose my original draft of Mr. Ingalls’ class to include as copy of draft, and made my last revisions to my writer’s statement. Wiki gave me major trouble; I couldn’t get my files to load. I sent a message to Steve about my computer issues.